

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
WYOMING WOMENS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Wyoming womens basketball team. On March 31st, the team handily defeated the University of Wisconsin to win the Womens National Invitational Tournament for the first time in school history.

As the Representative of the great State of Wyoming, it is my pleasure to join my fellow citizens as our state beams with pride for these 14 very accomplished young women and their coach, Joe Legerski.

Madam Speaker, millions of people across America call themselves basketball players, but only the truly elite will ever have the satisfaction and delight of calling themselves national champions. Members of the Wyoming Cowgirl basketball team are now living the dream of every young girl who has ever laced up her high tops and joined her local hoops team.

But the road to the WNIT Championship wasn't easy. In the semi-finals, the Cowgirls were pitted against the defending WNIT champs, Kansas State University. In front of a boisterous home crowd, the Cowgirls won a triple-overtime thriller, earning a ticket to the first post-season championship game in the program's history.

Three days later, over 15,000 fans arrived at Laramie's famous Arena-Auditorium to watch the Cowgirls roll to a 72-56 victory over the Wisconsin Badgers. Their victory came in front of the largest-ever crowd of Cowgirl basketball fans, a testament to the State's overwhelming support and pride for these women.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Amy Bolerjack, her sister Jodi Bolerjack, Mallory Cline, Elisabeth Disen, Annie Gorenstein, Angiah Harris, Gemma Koehler, Megan McGuffey, Megan Mordecai, Justyna Podziemska, Dominique Sisk, Rebecca Vanderjagt, Aubrey Vandiver, and tournament MVP Hanna Zavec.

These Cowgirls have proven they know how to get 'er done. They are living a dream come true, and they will have memories to last a lifetime.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON UKRAINE POLITICAL CRISIS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a concurrent resolution which addresses the current political crisis in Ukraine, a country of strategic importance to the United States. My resolution urges all sides to the ongoing impasse to act responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis and ensure a free and democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law. I am pleased that Rep. KAPTUR, a co-chair of the Ukrainian American Caucus, has joined me as original cosponsor.

Ukraine's current political conflict is the result of the ongoing power struggle that President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich have now been engaged in since Yanukovich became Prime Minister last August. This power struggle, rooted in hastily conceived constitutional reforms, threatens to undermine Ukraine's hard-fought and substantial democratic gains, especially those won since the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Exactly 2 weeks ago today, President Yushchenko issued a decree dissolving parliament, asserting that the Prime Minister was attempting to monopolize power, and called for new parliamentary elections for May 27. Parliament has refused to disband and questions the legality of the presidential decree. Ukraine's Constitutional Court is to rule on the legality of the decree and both sides have agreed to abide by the Court's decision. Unfortunately, some of the Court's judges have already complained of threats and pressure, especially from Yanukovich's supporters. Clearly, this is unacceptable and steps have been taken to protect the judges.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that Ukraine has made real democratic gains since the Orange Revolution. A year ago, as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I had the privilege of leading the OSCE-led International Election Observation Mission to Ukraine's parliamentary elections and the pleasure and profound satisfaction of pronouncing them free and fair. Also, in contrast to the first 13 years of its independence, Ukraine in now designated by Freedom House as a "free" country, and not merely "partly free." Nevertheless, despite the progress, there have been missed opportunities and some of the promises of that historic revolution have gone unfulfilled.

Democratic institutions and the rule of law in Ukraine are still emerging and fragile and lacking in their ability to safeguard democratic gains, and it is this weakness that has made it possible for this power struggle to ripen into a full-blown political crisis. First and foremost, my resolution calls for the crisis to be resolved in a manner that adheres to the rule of law consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national security, in keeping with its OSCE commitments. It is also essential that the dispute is resolved in a peaceful manner. I am encouraged that demonstrations in Kyiv have been peaceful and that all sides to the dispute appear to recognize that any kind of violent conflict would have very negative consequences for Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, prolonged instability is clearly not in Ukraine's interests and that nation's political leaders need to find a transparent way out of the current impasse that all parties will abide by. I hope that responsible dialogue consistent with the rule of law leads to a positive outcome for the Ukrainian people and the democratic path they have chosen.

As this resolution underscores, Congress has been a staunch supporter of the development of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine since the restoration of that nation's independence in 1991. The consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine will further strengthen that country's independence and sovereignty, enhancing Ukraine's aspirations for full integration with the West. I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution as a demonstration of Congress' interest, concern, and support for the Ukrainian people.

HONORING RIVERDALE'S LADY
WARRIORS ON THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP
BASKETBALL SEASON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2006-2007 Riverdale High School Lady Warriors and their championship basketball season. The Lady Warriors are from my home town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and I am proud of them for this tremendous accomplishment.

I know these ladies put forth intense determination and perseverance as they captured the first girls basketball championship for a Murfreesboro team in 83 years and the first ever for Riverdale High School.

The Lady Warriors were dominant throughout their season. Their final win over Memphis Northside was the team's 17th straight victory.

I commend Riverdale High School principal Tom Nolan, Lady Warriors head coach Michael Burt and assistant coaches Brianne Dodgen, Tisha Hayes, Jamey Arnold and Cuyler Lanier.

I extend my congratulations to the 2006-2007 AAA State Champion Lady Warriors: Anne Marie Lanning, Alex Bivens, Jessica Whitens, Nikki Talley, Shellina Burgess, Morgann Swoape, Clarke Davis, Hillary Grider, Payton Dickinson, Candace Spurlock, Rachel Orman, Natalie Lanning and Manager Jackie Donovan.

HONORING DR. PATRICK MAXWELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor G. Patrick Maxwell, M.D., FACS and thank him for his contributions to the practice of plastic surgery and his service to others. Dr. Maxwell's talents as a pioneering plastic surgeon are world renowned.

Dr. Maxwell received both his undergraduate and M.D. from Vanderbilt University and completed residencies in general surgery and plastic surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Maxwell has published over 100 scientific articles, and lectured and performed live surgical demonstrations in over 20 countries world-wide.

In 2005, Dr. Maxwell was awarded the Presidential Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. This award acknowledged his "excellence as an educator and innovator bringing art and science to a new level for the specialty." Additionally Maxwell has received virtually every accolade awarded to an American plastic surgeon. These awards include the Robert H. Ivy Society Award, the James Barrett Brown Award and Maxwell is a three time recipient of the Walter Scott Brown Award. Dr. Maxwell continues to be an innovator in his field and has ten U.S. patents for medical devices. Dr. Maxwell has been instrumental in revolutionizing developments in reconstruction for survivors of breast cancer.

Maxwell's contributions are not limited to the field of plastic surgery. In addition, Maxwell is